



Show and Tell Time! Celebrate LIFE Children's Lesson

(Materials needed- a skein of yarn or something you enjoy doing in your free time that the kids won't guess easily, and an item that will confuse children a little bit like a specific machine part, a baggie of sand or soil or gravel, or something that is unfamiliar to them like a lamp finial a part of something they don't usually see. Conceal both items in a bag or a box that you can open without their seeing. A bag with straps works well if you don't have a place to set things while you speak. Individual bags of Skittles candy to pass out after church.)

Good morning! Welcome to our children's lesson time together! Today I want to talk about something that you might remember from school: Show and Tell! Can someone here tell us what Show and Tell is?

That's how we did Show and Tell even back when I was in school too! We would bring something from home, then get to SHOW it to our class and TELL them all about it! Does anyone here LIKE Show and Tell? Raise your hand if you like to do the showing and telling! Raise your hand if you like to listen and look at the show-ers and the tell-ers! It is a lot of fun, isn't it?

Would Show and Tell work so well if we only told people about things? Let's try it: (straighten up a little, take a deep breath and speak in a louder excited voice: "OK, friends, I want to tell you about something really cool. I like it soooo much and I got it from my family. It is something that I enjoy at night, and it makes me feel happy." (Settle back a little and pause, then speak in a regular voice) What did you think? Did you all know what I was telling about? One the count of 3 tell me what you think I was telling about. 1...2...3...go! (Listen and look surprised or confused) So, some of you said it was a game or a TV, some of you said it was a pillow or a book. You were all wrong...it was...new yarn to knit with! HOW did you not guess that?? I spent all that time TELLING you about it. Gosh, that didn't work so well, huh?

What if we just played with me SHOWING you something and not telling you? That must be better. OK- here goes and remember I am *only* going to show it to you and not tell you about it because you will be able to see it! (Pull out the confusing item and smile very broadly. Gesture to it and smile but don't answer any questions, not even with a nod or a head shake. Let them get a little uncomfortable wondering what it is. Maybe have another adult nearby to add to the wonder by saying things like- this is strange! I can't figure out what that is. Why would he or she bring THAT to show us??!) Wow- did you like the game just SHOWING and not TELLING? Whaaaaat? That wasn't fun- why not? What- you want to know what that thing was? Well, couldn't you figure it out? I guess I can tell you now that the game is over if you really want to know. It was a lightbulb

final/sample of the gravel we are putting on the playground/new soil for my office plant/ a part to a board game...wasn't that obvious? No? So, would it have been better if I SHOWED it to you AND tried to TELL you about it? Hmmmm.

Did you know the BIBLE talks about Show and Tell? I know- that's pretty awesome. BUT, it is a little different than the Show and Tell we enjoy at school. In the book called First John, which is a letter written to people who believed in Jesus about showing and telling, it starts off like this: "**See** what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be **called** children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 1:1 The writer of this book is telling Christians to SEE what great love God lavished on us. He is SHOWING US God's great love! The next line says we who believe in Jesus should be CALLED children of God...is that TELLING US who we are? Show and tell!

A few verses later, the author writes this: "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth" (v. 18). Dear Children! That's us!! Loving with words or speech...that's TELLING? But with Actions and in Truth! That sounds like SHOWING! SHOW people by our ACTIONS that we love Jesus.

Wait! This verse says let us NOT love with words or speech ...are we NOT supposed to TELL people about Jesus to show our love?! I think it means don't JUST TELL people. Remember when we played Tell instead of Show and Tell? That wasn't so great, was it? No- when we tell and SHOW our love in action, it will make more sense, just like our game! I tried to just SHOW you something, but we found that Telling AND Showing works best.

So, think about ways we can tell and show God's love to others this week. Any ideas? We are all God's children, and we can share His love by telling people about Jesus' love for us on the cross to forgive our sins and by showing them love because God loved us first! Maybe we tell someone we love them because God loves us and we show it by helping them out, like carrying things for them or doing some work for them? What if someone is sad, we can say God loves you and I love you and I want to hug you and show my love. Or if someone has a need, like they have a cold head and you have a hat to share, that's a great way to show love. Here in church, we take an offering of money and use that to help people buy what they need. Our church shares some of this money with a ministry called Redeeming Life, which gives a safe home and food and help to moms who are pregnant and need help. The moms and babies live there and learn about Jesus, go to church together and learn how to get a job to support themselves. We are showing them that God loves them and we do too.

Let's pray together! You can repeat after me: *Dear God, thank you for telling us you love us in the words of the Bible. Thank you for showing us you love us by sending Jesus to die for us to forgive our sins. Help me love others by telling them the good news about forgiveness in Jesus and showing them love by serving and helping them. We want to show and tell the whole world about your redeeming love! In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.*

After church I want you to meet me in the back because I am going to send you home with a reminder to not just tell but to show everyone God's love. Your homework will be to show God's

love every time you see a little letter S. Thanks for learning more about God's Word today! You may return to your seats.

When you distribute the skittle candy, have the children tell you what the letter S stands for (show God's love) and what actions they plan to take!

This lesson was written by Julia Heinz, Director of Marketing and Development for Redeeming Life.

Redeeming Life was founded in Sanford, FL to offer a Christ-centered maternity home for single mothers in crisis pregnancy situations who choose life for their babies. RLOM provides a safe and secure place to live, programming to learn life skills for independent living, and an opportunity to grow in faith with our Savior. The home is run by a deaconess and a house mom trained in leading women. RLOM added a transition home in Florida for women to practice the skills for successful independent living with support from the ministry.

In 2023, RLOM will open its second maternity home in suburban Chicagoland's East Dundee, Illinois. Each location partners with a local LCMS church to provide a family of faith for the residents and staff. Future plans include opening new maternity homes throughout the United States.

For more information, visit rlom.org.